XV. *Part of a Letter from Mr.* J. Derby *to Mr.* Henry Sheppard, *concerning a terrible* Whirlwind, *which happen'd at* Corne Abbas *in* Dorſetſhire, Oct. 30. 1731. *communicated to the* ROYAL SOCIETY *by* Edmund Halley, *LL. D. V. Pr.* R. S. *and Aſtronom. Reg.*

——ON *Saturday* the 30th of *October* laſt paſt, about a Quarter before One in the Night, there happen'd at *Corne-Abbas, Dorſetſhire,* a very ſudden and terrible Wind Whirl-puff, as I call it: Some ſay it was a Water-ſpout, and others a Vapour or Exhalation from the Earth; but be it of what Name it will, it began on the South-weſt Side of the Town, carrying a direct Line to the North-eaſt, croſſing the Middle of the Town in Breadth two hundred Yards. It ſtripped and uncovered tiled and thatched Houſes, rooted Trees out of the Ground, broke others in the midſt of at leaſt a Foot ſquare, and carried the Tops a conſiderable way. The Sign of the new Inn, a Sign of five Foot by four, was broke off ſix Foot in the Pole, and carried croſs a Street of forty Foot Breadth, and over an oppoſite Houſe, and dropp'd in the Backſide thereof. It took off and threw down the Pinacles and Battlements of one Side of the Tower; by the Fall of which, the Leads and Timber of great Part of the North Alley of the Church was broke in. The Houſes of all the Town were ſo ſhock'd, as to raiſe the Inhabitants; no hurt was done but only

acroſs

acroſs the Middle of the Town in a Line. No Life loſt, but Three had a very providential Eſcape. 'Tis computed by judicious Workmen, that the Damage ſuſtain'd by this Accident amounts to Two hundred Fifty-eight Pounds, and upwards. It is very remarkable, it only affected, as I have related: no other Parts of the Neighbourhood or Country ſo much as felt or heard it. It is ſuppoſed by the moſt Judicious, that it began and ended within the Space of two Minutes. 'Twas ſo remarkably calm a Quarter after Twelve, that the Exciſeman walked through two Streets, and turned a Corner, with a naked lighted Candle in his Hand, unmoleſted and undiſturbed by the Air; and as ſoon as over, a mighty Calm, but ſoon followed by a prodigious violent Rain. If this Fact be worth relating, I ſhould be glad to know amongſt the Learned, what it might be called, or, if to be known, from what Cauſe it might ariſe.

Mintern Magna,
Nov. 13. 1731.

Your obliged Friend,
and moſt humble Servant,

J. Derby.

XVI. *An*